

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**  
December 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid:

We write to support Amtrak's request for \$300 million in job creation legislation for the acquisition of new long haul, diesel-electric locomotives that will create and maintain nearly 2,000 green, good-paying, manufacturing jobs. This funding will also help sustain our domestic rail manufacturing industry during the current economic downturn and develop a more robust, reliable, and environmentally-friendly passenger rail system.


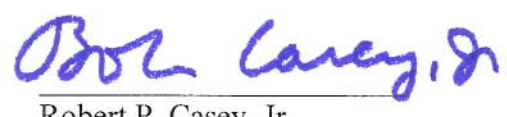
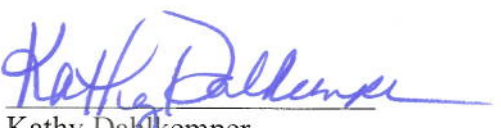
This initiative has great potential to create jobs through expanded opportunities for the manufacturing industry. The manufacturing industry continues to be one of the hardest hit by the economic downturn with a total of 2.1 million manufacturing jobs lost since 2007, including 41,000 jobs lost in December. Domestic rail manufacturing has had significant layoffs, which also threatens our ability to maintain this vital manufacturing base in the United States. For example, in September, GE Transportation announced layoffs of more than 1,600 employees, and we understand it faces further cuts should the industry continue to suffer.

Amtrak is well positioned to play a major role in the ongoing effort to create jobs, bolster the domestic rail manufacturing industry, and strengthen our country's passenger rail service. The replacement of older locomotives will meet national goals for securing the domestic manufacturing industry, as well as improving passenger rail safety, on-time reliability, fuel savings, and emissions reduction.

Given the importance of job creation to the manufacturing industry, we respectfully request inclusion of a specific set aside for Amtrak to procure long haul, diesel-electric locomotives.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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| Arlen Specter<br>U.S. Senator  | Robert P. Casey, Jr.<br>U.S. Senator   | Kathy Dalenkemper<br>Member of Congress   |

cc: The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Richard Durbin  
The Honorable Byron Dorgan  
The Honorable David Obey